

Recommendations to the Security Council

IRAQ

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is listed for the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and hospitals. In May, the Council will be briefed on UNAMI's progress and consultations will follow. In light of this briefing and consultations, **the Council Members should:**

- **Strongly encourage the Government of Iraq to activate the inter-ministerial committee on Security Council Resolution 1612 to discuss and follow up on child protection commitments**, in partnership with the Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), and to continue the overall cooperation with the UN system;
- **Encourage the Government to finalize the review of the child protection policy** in cooperation with UNAMI and UNICEF;
- Request the Secretary-General (SG) to ensure that the CTFMR in Iraq, and other relevant UN agencies, **continue their efforts to support, within their respective mandates, the Government in addressing violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict** in violation of applicable international law, and to ensure that the matter of children and armed conflict is included as a specific aspect in all his country-specific reports; and **direct greater financial and human resources towards ensuring effectiveness of monitoring and reporting** of grave violations against children, especially in areas most affected by conflict.

THE UNITED STATES IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON IRAQ.

SOMALIA

Somali National Army (SNA) and Al-Shabaab are both listed for the recruitment and use and killing and maiming of children. Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaah (ASWJ) is also listed for recruitment and use. In 2012, the Transitional Federal Government signed two action plans with the UN, one to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children by the SNA and one to end the killing and maiming. In 2014, the Ministers of Defence and National Security signed SOPs on the reception and handover of children separated from armed groups in Somalia. On March 24, the SRSG Keating deplored the high number of children among the al-Shabaab militants captured by Puntland security forces in March 2016. In May, the SG is expected to report on UNSOM's progress pursuant to SCR 2275 (2016) and AMISOM's mandate is due for renewal. The Council is also planning a visit to Somalia in May. **The Council Members should:**

- **Maintain the promotion of child protection as one of UNSOM's key priorities**, and to that end, continue to ask for the deployment of Child Protection Advisors, ensure that all mandatory predeployment training on child protection is being undertaken, and call upon UNSOM to continue to coordinate with AMISOM's Child Protection Adviser appointed in January 2015;
- Call on the African Union and troop contributing countries to take all necessary measures to end and prevent violations and abuses committed against children, and ensure accountability by undertaking prompt and independent investigations;
- **Stress to the Federal Government that children detained during military operations, and on charges for their alleged association with armed groups, should be treated primarily as victims and handed over to child protection actors in accordance with the SOPs signed in 2014**; and furthermore, encourage UNSOM to support the Federal Government on the implementation of the SOPs, with support from other child protection actors;
- **Urge UNSOM to continue to support the Federal Government with action plan implementation, in collaboration with UNICEF**, as well as call for the overall increased implementation of the action plans and continued strengthening of the legal framework for child protection, pursuant to SCR 2232;
- Encourage stronger public reporting on child protection as part of the SG's progress reports on UNSOM, **offering disaggregate data on the six grave violations against children.**

THE UNITED KINGDOM IS THE LEAD COUNTRY ON SOMALIA. THE CHAIR OF THE 751/1907 SOMALIA/ERITREA COMMITTEE IS VENEZUELA.

Situations before the Council involving parties listed for grave violations against children:

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[Central African Region \(LRA-affected areas\)](#)

[Central African Republic](#)

[Colombia](#)

[Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

[Iraq](#)

[Mali](#)

[Myanmar \(Burma\)](#)

[Nigeria](#)

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[Syrian Arab Republic](#)

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SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

Six parties are listed. The Free Syrian Army and its affiliated groups, and the People Protection Units (YPG) are listed for recruitment and use of children. Syrian Government forces, including the National Defence Forces and the Shabbiha militia, are listed for killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. Listed for the recruitment and use and killing and maiming are Ahrar al-Sham al-Islami, Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and al-Nusra Front. ISIL is additionally listed for rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. In May, the Council will receive its regular briefings on the implementation of SCR 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), and 2258 (2015). The last SG's report (S/2016/272) documents cases of killing and maiming of children as a result of airstrikes, attacks against schools and hospitals, and stresses that the issue of humanitarian access remains challenging as parties to the conflict continued to entirely or heavily restrict access to the besieged areas. UNICEF's March report "[No Place for Children](#)" notes that by 2016, Syria had lost more than a quarter of its schools, with more than 6,000 damaged, forced to close, or used for the fighting or sheltering hundreds of displaced families. **The Security Council should:**

- **Call for an immediate end to hostilities and demand that all parties to the conflict comply fully with international human rights and humanitarian law; demand an immediate and full implementation of the relevant resolutions, and demand that all parties take effective measures to prevent and end all grave violations against children in conflict, particularly resulting from the recent wave of airstrikes;**
- **Call on all parties to immediately lift sieges on populated areas and allow sustained and unimpeded access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all civilians in need, and allow for immediate medical evacuation of civilians in besieged areas in need of life-saving care, and end deliberate water cuts used as a weapon of war;**
- **Consider additional measures, such as targeted sanctions, to address non-compliance, by any party, with relevant resolutions to end attacks on civilians, health professionals, and medical facilities;**
- Support resumption of the peace negotiations and the implementation of the confidence-building measures addressing protection of children, including **protection of schools, as well as release of all child recruits, ensuring their safe demobilization and reintegration.**

EGYPT, NEW ZEALAND AND SPAIN ARE LEADING ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES ON SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.

Recommendations to the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

IRAQ

On March 2, the [SG's report](#) on children and armed conflict in Iraq was formally presented and the Working Group began negotiations of its conclusions on April 1. To inform the Working Group ahead of the conclusion negotiations, Watchlist developed and shared a special internal policy briefing with the experts on March 17. The Working Group is currently finalizing the conclusion, which is expected to be adopted by mid-May. For latest recommendations, see Watchlist's [April Children and Armed Conflict \(CAC\) Monthly Update](#).

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The Working Group is expected to receive a formal presentation of the SG's report on children and armed conflict in CAR in the first week of May, and begin their consideration of the report shortly thereafter. Watchlist will brief the Working Group on key findings and recommendations from its field mission to Bangui between April 22 and May 3 to inform their negotiations.

Presidency of the Security Council for May: Egypt

- Party to Geneva Convention I-IV, Additional Protocols I and II, Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol, ILO Convention 182; Has not endorsed the Paris Principles and the Paris Commitments. Not yet a Party to the Rome Statute of the ICC (signed but not ratified).

NGO resources

- Child Soldiers International, [A law unto themselves? Confronting the recruitment of children by armed groups](#), March 2016 
- Physicians for Human Rights, [Empty Promises: Syria Cessation of Hostilities Fails on Aid Delivery](#), March 2016 
- Human Rights Watch, [DR Congo: Children Held in Remote Military Prison](#), April 2016 
- Amnesty International, [Nigeria: Two years after Chibok abductions it is time to #BringBackOurGirls](#), April 2016 
- Human Rights Watch, [They Set Classrooms on Fire: Attacks on Education in Northern Nigeria](#), April 2016 
- Defense for Children International Palestine, [No Way to Treat a Child: Palestinian Children in the Israeli Military Detention System](#), April 2016 

About Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict is a global network of international human rights and humanitarian non-governmental organizations which strives to end violations against children in armed conflicts through local partnerships, reporting and advocacy.

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